



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



NATIONAL AWARD NAMED IN HONOR OF FORMER SD GUARDSMAN

Every man and woman of the Army National Guard serves for his or her own reason. Some join to serve their country or their state, some to learn trades or to advance their civilian education, and then there are some who dedicate their careers to serving their fellow soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Martin "Marty" Kendrick was one of these individuals, a man who dedicated his life to understanding the individual Soldier and working to enhance programs and processes to better serve those with whom he served. What makes his dedication so unique was described by his co-workers as an "unyielding drive to better the life of soldiers" who had not even had the opportunity to earn that title, the newest, un-indoctrinated trainees, the men and women in the Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP).

RSP is the program that assists new recruits on their path to becoming a soldier. Kendrick dedicated more than six years of his life to ensuring the program ran smoothly so that each recruit would be prepared for their initial entry into the military lifestyle.

Last year, the National Guard Bureau created a quality award to honor the state's Recruit Sustainment Program that led the nation in quality control. This award was named the Marty Kendrick Award in honor of the late Martin Kendrick, who spent four years as the state contract supervisor for the RSP for South Dakota.

Kendrick was diagnosed with cancer in 2008, but he continued his dedicated service to the RSP long after. Marty Kendrick succumbed to cancer at his home in Winner, S.D. on July 22, 2011 – three years after being diagnosed.

The Marty Kendrick Recruit Sustainment Program National Quality Control Award reads: "For outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence on behalf of the RSP warrior," an ideal that Martin J. Kendrick displayed every day of his career, encouraged others to take up and continues to inspire current RSP cadre to uphold.

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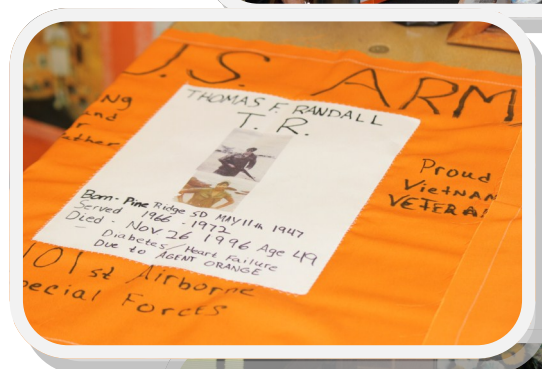
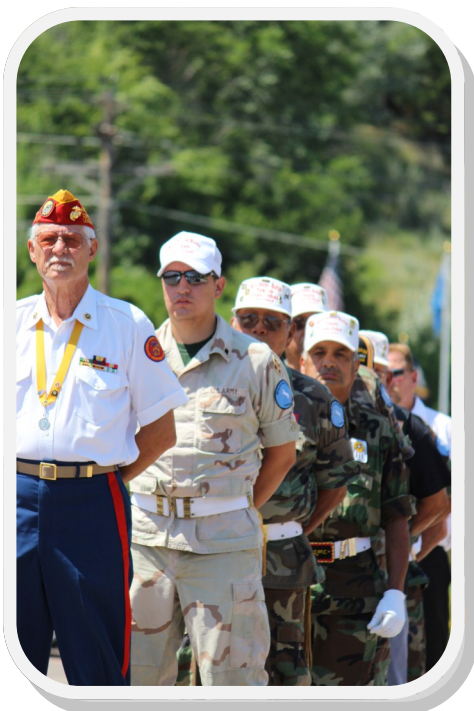
HATS OFF TO HOT SPRINGS

Hot Springs has always been known as the "Veterans Town" - a community that loves veterans. That designation was articulated this past weekend when the community of Hot Springs and the VABHHCS hosted the "All Veterans Reunion."

Veterans from all war eras and their families traveled to Hot Springs to partake in a weekend dedicated to honoring our veterans. The weekend activities kicked off with the opening of the American Veterans Traveling Tribute "Honoring our Heroes" memorial. Veterans were also afforded the opportunity to view memorials for the War on Terror and the Korean War, as well as view the Fallen Heroes Banner display and the Agent Orange Quilt of Tears.



The finale for this wonderful event honoring veterans was the benefits fair, the picnic and the tribute to our Nation's Heroes. SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman served as master of ceremony for the tribute. Zimmerman commends the community of Hot Springs and the staff of VABHHCS for organizing such a wonderful tribute to our veterans. "This weekend allowed all of us a moment to remember the sacrifices of the brave men and women who have heroically fought to make America the great nation it is," said Zimmerman. "It is important that we have opportunities like this event to honor, thank and recognize our heroes and their families."



SIoux FALLS JOB FAIR

The Sioux Falls Veterans and Spouses Job Fair will be held Wednesday, August 21, at the Elmen Center (2500 S. Grange Avenue) in Sioux Falls. Doors open at 10:00 am. This job fair affords employers, veterans and spouses a great opportunity to visit about employment prospects.

This Job Fair originated in 2007 and was organized by the South Dakota Department of Labor, American Legion Post # 15 and VFW Post # 628. That year the event was held at the American Legion in Sioux Falls and was open only to veterans.

For the next five years, the Job Fair was held at the VFW in Sioux Falls. The event went through some evolution with first including Guardsmen and Reservists in addition to active duty Veterans. Eventually military spouses were also included at the event. Both the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) became additional sponsors. In addition, the United States Chamber of Commerce came on board to assist with their nationwide campaign called Hiring Our Heroes which promoted the hiring of military service members and their spouses. The Chamber of Commerce along with their corporate sponsors have a goal of getting 500,000 military service members and spouses hired as a result of the over 400 Job Fairs they assist with throughout the country.

In 2012, the Sioux Falls Job Fair had 69 employers participate. Due to space constraints some vendors and employers were turned down. Because of the size of this event, they have outgrown both facilities and that is why they are utilizing the Elmen Center on the campus of Augustana College.

Remember, this Job Fair is free for both applicants and employers. Types of participating employers from the past include: banking/credit card industry, non-banking call centers, construction, finance/insurance, food service, government, human services, media, medical, retail, production, security, technical, telecommunications, and warehouse. It isn't just local Sioux Falls area employers who participate. Employers from as far as Watertown, Brookings, Mitchell, Aberdeen, Yankton, Omaha, Fargo and the Twin Cities participate.

If you're an applicant or employer who wants more information or has questions about the Veterans' and Spouses' Job Fair please contact Tom or Jim at the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation Office in Sioux Falls at 367-5300.



SENATOR JOHNSON HOLDS VETERANS ROUNDTABLE

Thursday of this week, Senator Johnson held a Veterans Roundtable in Sioux Falls to discuss the backlog. This setting allows leaders within the veteran network to be updated on issues at both the state and federal levels, as well as express their concerns.

Sen. Johnson reviewed his 10-point plan that is included in his Fiscal Year 2014 appropriations bill in an effort to reduce the backlog.

Jim Brubaker (Dakotas VARO Director) briefed the group on the claims initiatives that are currently going on right now as well as talked about the importance of submitting fully developed claims. Kay Anderson (St. Paul VARO Asst. Director) discussed the Pension Maintenance Center and highlighted the strides that have been made in clearing up their rating related inventory. Anderson also noted that they have made a huge dent in the number of burial claims the PMC has pending. They are down to approximately 7,300 from over 25,000 a year ago.

Following their presentations Sen. Johnson posed questions to both of them on whether or not a degradation of services was predicted, staffing, accuracy, VBMS transition, delays and the responsiveness of the PMC.

Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard attended the roundtable on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs and expressed his concerns on non-rating issues that have taken a back burner. Pollard also stressed that the FDC's are working. Pollard said, "Events and meetings such as these are necessary to keep an open dialogue with VA leadership and decision makers. Decisions made at the top should not be made without input from those who live these situations every day."

Pollard asked Sen. Johnson, if at the federal level, discussions were taking place to ensure that future backlogs are avoided.

Senator Johnson's 10-Point Plan - -

- *Provides \$20 million above the President's budget request to upgrade computer hardware at VA Regional Offices to handle the advanced program requirements of the Veterans Benefits Management Program (VBMS), the VA's paperless claims system.*
- *Provides an additional \$10 million for targeted overtime for claims processors as needed to increase production and help eliminate the claims backlog.*
- *Directs the VA to increase training of claims processors to achieve not only expedited production but also to ensure quality and accuracy to reduce claims appeals.*
- *Directs the VA to provide Quality Review Teams and spot audits at Regional Offices to assess the performance of the claims processing operations and flag any management or operational weaknesses.*
- *Directs the VA to create Centers of Excellence at selected Regional Offices for certain types of complex claims, such as claims for PTSD or TBI compensation.*
- *Requires the VA to have the data management capability to receive all DOD records in an electronic format by the end of 2013.*
- *Requires the VA to provide monthly reports on performance measures for each Regional Office, including the number of backlogged claims, average number of days to complete a claim, and error rates.*
- *Requires the VA to submit quarterly reports that include the number of claims personnel in each Regional Office and corrective action taken to remedy any problems at poorly performing offices.*
- *Directs the VA Inspector General in coordination with the DOD Inspector General to examine the processes and procedures involved in the transmission of medical and personnel records from DOD to VA to identify any problem areas and provide recommendations for improvements.*
- *Provides \$88 million for the Board of Veterans Appeals, \$12.9 million over the request, to hire additional personnel to address the backlog of appeals.*

CHALLENGE FOR OUR CTVSOS AND VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

This week KELO-Land TV reported that the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C., has an effort underway to bring the 52,000 names of those inscribed on the Wall to life with pictures.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is building a \$96 million education center near the memorial that will depict larger-than-life digital displays of fallen Vietnam Veterans. They hope to break ground on the education center next fall, and believe this powerful exhibit will add to the sanctity of the Wall.

The foundation started gathering the photographs of the 52,000 years ago, hoping someday they would have them and that the Education Center would have a wall of faces. The good news is — so far they have 32,000 photos and are only short photos for three South Dakotans .

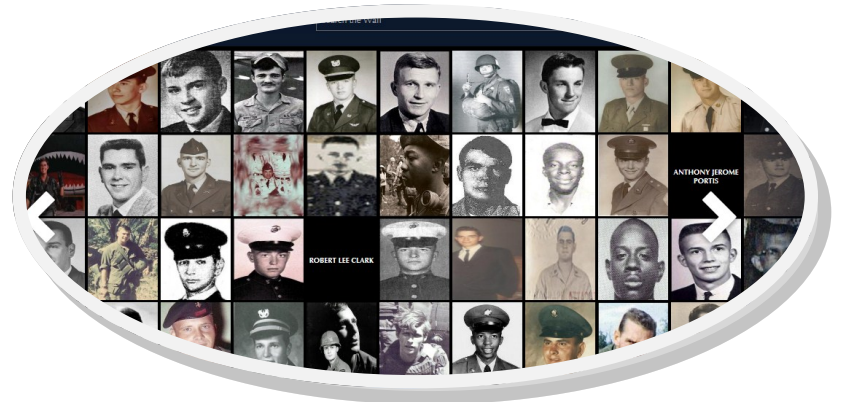
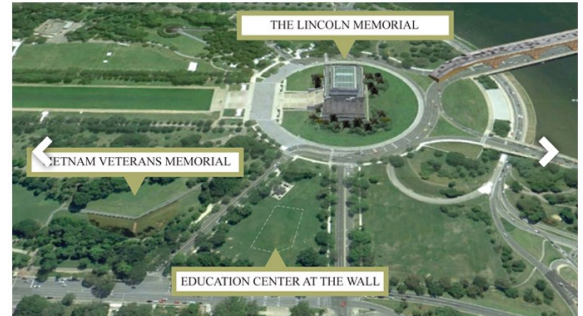
Here's where you can help — the three South Dakota veterans they need pictures for are—

PFC Michael Marks of Sioux Falls

LT Rodney Green of Rapid City

PFC Carlos Yellow Elk of Milesville

To learn more about the effort to collect these photos and ensure their faces will never be forgotten, visit the Virtual Vietnam Wall website—<http://www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces/>.



SDDVA STAFF UPDATE



Secretary Zimmerman recently announced that Aaron Pollard will serve as the "Director of Veterans Affairs Claims Division/Deputy Secretary.

Zimmerman notes that "Aaron has been with the Department for over seven years and during that tenure has built an outstanding rapport with the VA staff, our service organizations and our county and tribal veterans service officers. Aaron's work with the intricacies of the claims process and his past service as a veterans service officer will be a great asset to my management team."

Secretary Zimmerman noted that Steve Harding's expertise and talents will be focused on the construction of the new veterans home.

Krystal MaGee was recently promoted to Veterans Services Claims Examiner in the Department's Claims Office in Sioux Falls.

SPINK COUNTY RECOGNIZES PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS

Spink County VSO Gordon Richard hosted a special veterans recognition to honor Spink County veterans that have been awarded the Purple Heart Award. Bob Cleberg, Earl Sprague and Don Strivens were recognized for their sacrifice, service and valor. Bob and Earl were awarded their Purple Hearts while serving in Vietnam, and Don was awarded his in Italy during WWII.

VSO Richard read the Governor's Proclamation of August 7th as Purple Heart Recognition Day. Steve Oliva, SDDVA Field Officer provided a history of the Purple Heart Award and presented these heroes with certificates of appreciation.



GARDENING AND FISHING—ARE THEY WORK

It's all in a days work! Residents at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veterans Home have all the right to brag—whether they are fishing or gardening—they are bringing home the whoppers!!!!

Green thumbs like Ed, Gene, Reuben, Bill, Calvin and Everett are busy growing pumpkins, cucumbers, onions, tomatoes, squash, beets, flowers and sunflowers. And although Mike can't say he grew this fish — you can bet he's got a good story to tell on how he caught it!!!!



Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity. ~Lindley Karstens

VETERANS APPRECIATION



Friday, August 16th
Whitewood, SD
 Second Annual
VETERANS APPRECIATION
 at the Iron Horse Inn

The Original Fabulous One Guy
GORDY PRATT
 7pm • Friday, August 16th
 Iron Horse Inn • Whitewood, SD
 Also performing:
 7pm • Saturday, August 17th • Hulett, WY
 The Ponderosa Stage at the Ponderosa Bar
 FREE WILL DONATION

BONFIRE 10pm

Follow these events on Facebook!

Saturday, August 17th
SPC Dennis Jensen
MEMORIAL RIDE
 ALL CARS & BIKES ARE WELCOME!

HULETT, WY ⇌ DEVILS TOWER KOA
 For additional information, email
 spcdennisjensenmemorialride@yahoo.com

WHITEWOOD, SD ⇌ ST. ONGE, SD ⇌ BELLE FOURCHE, SD ⇌ ALADDIN, WY

\$20
 per rider/person
 Registration Fee

Fundraising Proceeds
 to benefit the
 Fallen Heroes Banner Project.
 This Memorial Ride & Benefit Run in honor of:
The Patriot Guard Riders • Legion Riders • Rolling Thunder

7am Registration Opens at Iron Horse Inn, 605-722-7574
 Pre-register at: www.ironhorseinnsturgis.com
 7am Pancake Feed – Free Will Donation
 8:30am Opening Ceremony, Iron Horse Inn, Whitewood, SD
 9am Departure
 3pm "Bring Your Own Meat" BBQ at Devils Tower KOA
 (runs until all served)
 7pm **Gordy Pratt** at the Ponderosa Bar, Hulett, WY
 9pm **Live Music** at the Ponderosa Bar, Hulett, WY

WWII-STYLE HANGAR DANCE BENEFIT



**HANGAR DANCE
AND Warbird PARTY**

WARBIRD RIDE RAFFLE
TOUR THE B-29
DANCE TO A LIVE SWING BAND
MEET WW2 VETS
CASH BAR
COOL PEOPLE
&
\$50 MILLION DOLLARS IN DECOR!
(really)

**MONDAY, AUGUST 12
PARTY LIKE IT'S 1945!**

TICKETS: CAFJoeFoss.com
LOCATION: Maverick Air Center (north of airport)
TIME: 5:30pm-10pm (P-51 ride raffle is early)



A WW2-style Hangar Dance will be held Monday, August 12, 2013, as an inaugural fundraiser for the Joe Foss Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force.

Many historic WW2 aircraft are scheduled to be present including the world's only flying B-29 Superfortress bomber, B-24 Liberator and P-51 Mustang.

A 13-piece swing band will also perform and beginner lessons in swing dance will be provided.

The event will be held at Maverick Air Center, just north of the Sioux Falls Airport and will run from 5:30pm to 10pm.

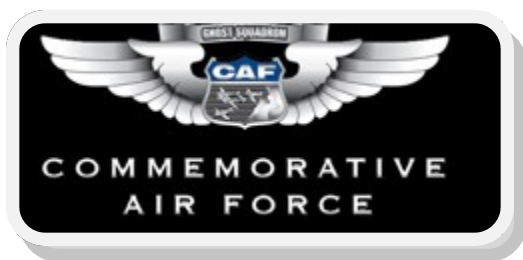
Tickets may be purchased online at www.cafjoeFoss.com. The ticket price includes food, dancing, dancing lessons and a tour of the B-29.

The Joe Foss Squadron is the newest unit of the famed "Commemorative Air Force" - the world's largest owner and operator of historic, privately owned aircraft.

The Joe Foss Squadron will work to advance interest in American history and aviation throughout the region. The fundraiser is a kick off event which

will culminate in the operation of their own WWII "Warbird" - the Stinson L-5 Sentinel. The L-5 will also be on display at the Hangar Dance.

For more information, contact Rick Tupper - rick@cafjoeFoss.com or John Mollison—john@cafjoeFoss.com.



BREAKING NEWS!

**YOUR TICKET IS
NOW WORTH A
CHANCE FOR ONE OF
THREE Warbird
RIDES!!**

**RIDES RAFFLED IN:
P-51 MUSTANG
T-6 TEXAN
L-5 SENTINEL**

(additional raffle tickets will be available at the door. Must be present to win)

**AND REMEMBER:
All \$50 ticket holders
get a tour of "FiFi"
the B-29 Bomber.**

**THIS IS GOING
TO BE THE
CAN'T-MISS PARTY
OF 2013!!!**

SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SERVED

Crysta Baker once said, “bikers and veterans go hand in hand and I can assure you that we never forget. That rumbling sound you hear when a group of bikes come together is not noise, it is the harmony of brotherhood coming together for a purpose and a cause.”

Never was that more evident than this past weekend at the Freedom Ride Poker Run held in Hot Springs. Residents at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home (MJFSVH) were greeted by hundreds of bikers, friends and family that were there to participate in the annual Freedom Ride. A special guest on hand for the event was Medal of Honor recipient Michael J. Fitzmaurice.

During the event, the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) donated \$10,000 to the MJFSVH to furnish five rooms in the new veterans home (\$5,000 came from the CVMA state chapter and \$5,000 came from matching funds from their National Association.)

Not all biking enthusiasts rode Harleys and hit the open highway. Some serious competitors participated in their own Rally Day at the MJFSVH!!!! Their two wheelers might not have had roared — but they lived to ride and rode to live!!!!

Special thanks to all who participated in this event and shared the day with our veterans and their continued financial donations.



Mike Thibault (State CVMA Chapter Executive Officer) and John Kost present check to MJFSVH Director of Operations Randall Meyers.



Upcoming Events

Aug. 16-17—Veterans Appreciation—Whitewood
Aug. 21—SFVAHCS 12th Annual VA Show and Shine
Aug. 21—Sioux Falls Veterans & Spouses Job Fair—Elmen Center (2505 S. Grange Avenue)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am
Aug. 24—Walk for the Fallen—Sioux Falls
Aug. 24-25—Freedom Bird 2013—W. H. Lyon Fairgrounds—Sioux Falls 10:00 am—5:00 pm
Aug. 26-28—VSO Annual Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre
Aug. 29—Salute to Veterans and Military Personnel Day at the SD State Fair
Aug. 31—DAV/727th Poker Run—Brookings Armory—11:00 am
Sept. 11—Stand Down—Wagner National Guard Armory—11:00 am
Sept. 13—Stand Down Watertown
Sept. 13-14—Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Retreat—Aberdeen
Sept. 20—Stand Down—Sioux Falls—VFW Post 628 (3601 S. Minnesota Ave.) 8:00 am—3:00 pm
Sept. 21—Black Hills Veterans March—Deadwood
Sept. 24—Stand Down—Aberdeen
Sept. 28-29—American Legion Golf Tournament—Webster
Oct. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
Dec. 15—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am

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